

### Pursuing Justice for Tortured American POWs

**Washington, Feb 1** -

Over the Christmas holiday, I was at home with my family when I learned that President Bush had vetoed a Defense budget bill because of a provision allowing former American Gulf War POW's to bring legal action against their Iraqi torturers. Needless to say, I was surprised that the President would veto a bill providing pay raises and better body armor for our troops, especially over a provision that helps former POWs get justice.

In the face of the President's stubborn opposition, Congressional leaders agreed to drop the provision from the bill. Because of the President's decision to put his own priorities for Iraq first, American veterans were denied the justice they deserve.

That's why I've introduced a new bill, the Justice for Victims of Torture and Terrorism Act (HR 5167), that would reverse the President's veto and allow American veterans and victims of torture to pursue legal claims against their torturers.

Last week I joined with POWs impacted by the President's veto to discuss the need for Congress to quickly act to stand up for veterans who've been tortured or terrorized.

As Congress convenes for the first time in 2008, I'm going to work hard to ensure that brave men and women who were tortured and brutalized in service to their country are given the justice they deserve.